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CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF  
LIBBEUS THADDEUS COONS, SR.

Revised March, 1990

- 13 May 1811 Born at Plymouth, Chenango, N. Y. (TIB; LDS Biographical Encyclopedia and Deseret Evening News obituary of 27 July 1872 both give the date as 13 May 1807.)
- (May 1831?) Married to Mary Ann Williamson, b. 11 Aug 1812, of Spafford, Onondaga, N. Y. (Date of marriage not verified; Family Group Sheets give her birthplace as either Springfield, Otsego Co. or Onondaga, Onondaga Co., N. Y. Nauvoo Sealing Records give the former birthplace.)
- 12 Nov 1832 Baptized at Spafford, Onondaga, N. Y. (Journal History, 26 Oct 1832, and The Orson Pratt Journals, p. 14-15, record a conference and baptisms on Nov. 10. The journal of William Snow (BYU Library), though it doesn't name those baptized, gives a more detailed chronology including a conference on 10 Nov and baptisms on 12 Nov. Each account says that 8 were baptized.)
- 21 Nov 1833 Adaline born at Kirtland, Geauga, Ohio (TIB; U. S. census of Pottawattamie Co., Iowa, 1850.)
- 5 May-3 Jul 1834 Was a member of Zion's Camp, organized for relief of the Saints in Missouri (History of the Church - hereafter noted as HC - 2:183; Journal History - hereafter JH - 13 May 1834; Church News, 8 Aug 1870, p. 16; Historical Record 8 (June 1889):940, by Andrew Jensen; Deseret News, 19 Oct 1864, and JH, 10 Oct 1864.)
- (1 Feb 1835) Susan born in Ohio (Family Group Sheets; 1850 U.S. census of Pottawattamie Co., Iowa. Other Family Group Sheets give the place as Harrison, Adair, Iowa or Modale, Harrison, Iowa, and the date as 1 Feb 1838. This disagrees with her age in the census - age 15, b. in Ohio - and with her cemetery record in Salem, Utah, giving her age as 86 yrs. She d. 15 Sep 1920; birthplace given as Iowa.)
- 14 Feb 1835 Was present at meeting when the Twelve Apostles were chosen (JH, 14 Feb 1835.)
- 28 Feb 1835 Called to be a member of the first quorum of Seventies in this dispensation (HC 2:203.)
- 2 May 1835 Ordained a Seventy; "called upon to hold [himself] in readiness to travel when circumstances might permit" (HC 2:221; JH, 2 May 1835.) (Kirtland Council Minute Book gives minutes and mentions the deep feelings of those present. Bro. Coons' blessing is not written out, as some earlier ones were.)
- 16 Jul 1835 Left Kirtland, Ohio, to labor in N.Y. State with Elder T. (Thomas?) Burdick. (Missionary Record says he left on 11 July and refers to Seventies Record Book C. His own letter in the Latter-day Saints Messenger and Advocate - hereafter M&A - 2:207 says he left on 16 July.)
- 6 Nov 1835 Reported missionary labors in letter to J. (John?) Whitmer, printed in M&A. He had traveled to Jamestown, N.Y., with Elder Burdick; then continued alone to Smyrna, Chenango, N.Y., preached for abt. 3 weeks and baptized 3; then traveled to Amity,

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- Allegheny, N.Y., labored 11 days and baptized 15. (M&A 2:207, Oct. 1835; JH, 6 Nov 1835.)
- 27 Dec 1835 Meeting of the Seventies in Kirtland; they testified of God's blessings in their ministry; 175 had been baptized through their labors. (M&A 2:253-254.)
- 19 Feb 1836 Was present at Elders' quorum meeting in Kirtland (Kirtland Elders' Quorum Record, 1836-1841, p. 8.)
- 27 Mar 1836 Kirtland Temple dedicated (HC 2:410-428). He may have been present.
- 9 Apr 1836 Received Elder's license at Kirtland (Kirtland Records, 1836-1838 and M&A 2:335. The latter doesn't give date, but is a quarterly list of licenses issued.)
- 12 Apr 1836 Left Kirtland on a short mission to N.Y. State (Missionary Record; JH, 12 Apr 1836; Missionary Cards, 1836-1854. The latter says he left on 12 Feb, but his verbal report, M&A 3:399, below, confirms the Apr departure date.)
- 25 Apr 1836 Wrote from Conneaut, Crawford Co., Pa. He had arrived there on 19 Apr, labored diligently, and baptized 3. (M&A 2:304; JH, 25 Apr 1836.)
- 4 Jun 1836 Baptized Horace S. Eldredge of Brutus, Cayuga, N.Y., who was later a member of the First Council of Seventy (Church Chronology, p. xxiii, by Andrew Jenson; Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah, p. 1284, by Frank Esshom.)
- 17 Sep 1836 Was present and preached at a conference at Amity, Allegany, N.Y. (M&A 3:399; Missionary Cards, 1836-1854.)
- Oct 1836 Reported his mission verbally at Kirtland. He had traveled about 1600 miles, preached mainly in N.Y. State, baptized 13 converts, and returned on the 15th (of Oct). (M&A 3:399-400.)
- 2 Jan 1837 Was a signer of Kirtland Safety Society's preamble and articles of agreement (JH, 2 Jan 1837.)
- 1837 Paid personal property taxes in Kirtland (Kirtland tax records, indexed in Milton V. Backman, comp., A Profile of Latter-day Saints of Kirtland, Ohio and Members of Zion's Camp, 1830-1839.)
- 1837?-1839 Went through persecutions in Missouri (Deseret Evening News 21:377 obituary, 27 July 1872.)
- 23 May 1839 Baptized Alfred Bell and confirmed him, along with James Younger Greene ("Methods of Tracing Pedigrees," Lesson 19, p. 3, Archibald F. Bennett; FGS)
- 1 Aug 1839 Sidney born at Smithfield, Hancock, Ill. (TIB.)
- 5-11 Oct 1839 Practicing medicine at Springfield, Sangamon, Ill., he attended upon Brigham Young, who was en route to England on a mission (JH, 5 Oct 1839; The Life of Heber C. Kimball, by Orson F. Whitney, p. 278; Manuscript History of Brigham Young, 1801-1844, ed. Elden J. Watson, p. 52.)

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- 1840 Location uncertain; not found in U.S. census index for Ill.
- 10 Jun 1841 Preached and represented the branch at Richard Grove, Mercer, Ill., at a conference at Walnut Grove, Knox, Ill. (JH, 10 Jun 1841.)
- 1 Mar 1842 or 1843 Mary Alvira born in Mercer Co., Ill. (H.O. #1742, record of Union Branch, Coonville, Iowa; 1850 U.S. census of Iowa Terr.; death certificate.)
- 10 Sep 1842 Performed marriage of Silas Hillman and Electa Fidelia Hulet (autobiography of Silas Hillman, Ms. in BYU Special Collections, p. 15.)
- 21 and 24 May 1843 Was visited by the Prophet Joseph Smith and William Clayton (HC 5:309; JH, 21 and 24 Mar 1843.) Libbeus' residence was on the way to Shokoquon and Camp Creek from Nauvoo.
- 12 Nov 1843 Was ordained a High Priest at Nauvoo (Early Church Info. File extract from Nauvoo High Priest Record; he received his High Priest's license on 18 May 1844.)
- ca. 1844 Baptized James Burrup and Thomas Green at Camp Creek (24 Jan 1990 letter from Jay G. Burrup; original source is Church records.)
- 18 Jan 1844 Applied for membership in Masonic Lodge at Nauvoo
- 15 Feb 1844 Was accepted into Masonic Lodge
- 15 Apr 1844 Was appointed to labor in Tennessee, preparing for a general conference there and seeking electors for Joseph Smith as a presidential candidate (HC 6:338; JH, 15 Apr 1844.)
- 18 May 1844 Received High Priest's license (see ordination above, 12 Nov 1843.)
- 15 Jun 1844 Brought charges before Nauvoo High Council court (Far West Record, ed. Donald Q. Cannon and Lyndon Cook, p. 229-30.) His presence in Nauvoo indicates that he had returned from his mission.
- 27 Jun 1844 Martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith at Carthage, Ill.
- 8 Aug 1844 Prophet's mantle fell upon Brigham Young; several recorded that he was transformed into the likeness of Joseph Smith.
- 8 Oct 1844 Was called at Nauvoo general conference to fill a mission to preside over branches in one of the U.S. congressional districts; this mission was given to 85 of the High Priests (HC 7:305; JH, 8 Oct 1844; Comprehensive History of the Church - CHC - 2:455.)
- (abt 1844) Martha Anne b. in Indiana; she probably died before 1850, as she is not listed with her family in the 1850 U.S. census (Family group sheets.)
- 22-24 Sep 1845 Corresponded with Brigham Young from Camp Creek, where Libbeus presided; was appointed to a committee to move the Saints into Nauvoo (JH, 22, 23 & 24 Sep 1845.) Libbeus' counselors at Camp Creek were possibly David Gamet and Nahum Bigelow (Autobiography

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of Mary Bigelow, p. 9; Ms. at Church Historical Dept.)

- Oct 1845 During conference Bro. (Brigham?) Young told the brethren to go back and secure their crops after Oct. conference, since mobbing had been allayed. The Bigelow family was one of the first to move back, and they encountered mobs after their return (Autobiography of Mary Bigelow, p. 5.)
- 31 Dec 1845 Libbeus and Mary Ann endowed in Nauvoo Temple (TIB; Nauvoo Temple Endowment Register, p. 79.)
- 24 Jan 1846 Mary Ann sealed to Libbeus (TIB; Nauvoo Sealings, p. 211.) Elizabeth Maria Dixon also sealed to Libbeus on the same day. (Ibid.) Sarah King also sealed to Libbeus for time only (Nauvoo Sealings, p. 221; obituary, Deseret News weekly 19:260, 6 Jul 1870, adds the surname Coons.)
- Spring 1846 Lived in Missouri River bottoms in Iowa Terr. after fleeing Nauvoo. Silas Hillman and others were also living there (Autobiography of Silas Hillman, Ms. in BYU Special Collections.)
- 27 Jul 1846 Minnie Patience born in Pottawattamie Co. (Indian lands), Iowa (Record of Union Branch, Coonville, Iowa.)
- Fall 1846 Settled on Keg Creek with several others (Mills County Journal, 22 July 1876, p. 4-5.)
- 1847 Was first physician in Mills Co., Iowa (History of Mills County, Iowa (1881), p. 517.)
- 1848 Was founder of Coonville, Iowa (Ibid., p. 518, 558.)
- Feb 1848 First built houses on site of Coonville (Mills County Journal, 22 July 1876, p. 7.)
- 16 Apr 1848 Was sustained as president of Union Branch organized at Coonville (Record of Union Branch.)
- May 1848 The branch responded to request of Elder Orson Hyde for 3-foot boards to cover printing office at Kaneshville (Council Bluffs). Of 600 boards made, L. T. Coons hauled 450 in a borrowed wagon. (Record of Union Branch.)
- 19 Jun 1848 Was called on mission by Orson Hyde; was to go to the Eastern countries to get money for schools; wrote to officials in Detroit on 17 Aug and in Syracuse on 31 Oct, plus 18 other letters to leading officials (Record of Union Branch.)
- 4 Feb 1849 Missionary labors approved by the branch; resustained as its president; Alvira and Patience, and other children of the branch were blessed (Ibid.)
- 1849 Town laid out and named Coonville; first school built (Mills County Journal, 22 July 1876, p. 8.)
- Aug 1849 Election held near Coonville; David M. Gamet elected J.P.; L. T. Coons was first postmaster, operating from his log cabin (Ibid.)
- 28 Nov 1849 Resolutions of the High Council in Iowa, concerning the upcoming

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- holiday dances, were published in the Frontier Guardian. Those appointed to preside over the dances were Joseph Young, D. D. Hunt, Jerome M. Benson, Lyman Stoddard, Harlow Redfield, Aaron Johnson, L. T. Coons, and Jonathan Browning. (JH, 28 Nov 1849.)
- 16 Feb 1850 Performed marriage of Silas Hillman and Emily Ann Cox (autobiography of Silas Hillman; Ancestry and History of Sarah (King) Hillman, 1799-1870, by Rhea Lenore Beck McAllister, 1967, p. 20. Copy in BYU Special Collections.)
- 13 Mar 1850 Lebbeus Thaddeus, Jr., born at Keg Creek, Mills Co., Iowa (TIB; 1850 U.S. census of Pottawattamie Co., Iowa -including present Mills Co.; military pension application of L. T. Coons, Jr.)
- 14 Mar 1850 Performed marriage of George S. Clark and Susannah Dalley (McAllister, op. cit.)
- End of May 1850 Given charge of 6 branches in Pottawattamie County, replacing Henry W. Miller; the call came from a Brother Stoddard (Record of Union Branch.)
- 15 Jul 1850 Isaac C. Haight and Robert Campbell stayed with L. T. Coons, who lived 20 miles from Kanessville and 6 miles from a Brother Davenport (Biographical Sketch and Diary of Isaac C. Haight, typed copy in BYU Special Collections, p. 74.)
- 17 Sep 1850 Coons family was enumerated in U. S. census, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa.
- 3 Feb 1851 Pledged with other branch members to donate labor in building houses for the poor (Record of Union Branch.)
- 25 Feb 1851 Daughter Adaline married John Buchanan (Early Church Info. File extract from Frontier Guardian, 7 Mar 1851.)
- Aug 1851 Was elected prosecuting attorney at Coonville; qualified and filed a \$5000 bond with W. W. Noyes and William Dalley as sureties, on 18 Aug; this was the first election of Mills Co., which was officially organized on first Monday of Aug 1851 (History of Mills Co., Iowa, pp. 381-382.)
- 7 Jan 1852 Frontier Guardian editorial by non-LDS citizens of Kanessville decried persecution in Mills Co. (JH, 7 Jan 1852; Silas Hillman also speaks of the problems in his autobiography.)
- 14 Feb 1852 Daughter Susan married Jacob Killian (Family Group Sheets.)
- Jun 1852 Earliest extant court records in Mills County show that J. L. (or J. S.) Sharp was serving as prosecuting attorney - perhaps they were elected yearly, or Libbeus had moved (History of Mills County, Iowa, p. 383.)
- Summer 1852 Most Saints in Iowa emigrated to Utah, including Jacob and Susan Killian, Sarah Hillman, Silas Hillman and family, and John and Adaline Buchanan (JH, 31 Dec 1852, supplement pp. 134-135; CHC 3:327-328.)
- 12 Jan 1853 Coonville was renamed Glenwood and became the permanent seat of justice (History of Mills County, Iowa, pp. 560; Mills County



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Journal, 22 July 1876, p. 9.)

16 Mar 1853 First land entered at U. S. land office in Mills Co.; J. W. Coolidge had bought all of Libbeus' interest in Coonville (Glenwood). (Mills County Journal, 22 July 1876, p. 9.)

7 Dec 1853 John Williamson Coons born at Bethlehem, Mills, Iowa (TIB; death certificate of John W. Coons; History of Mills County, Iowa, p. 514, says Bethlehem was later washed away by the Missouri River.)

5 Dec 1858 Daughter Alvira married Joel Day at Logan, Harrison, Iowa (Family Group Sheet.)

1857? Emigrated to Utah and settled in Provo, according to John W. Coons (Sevier Stake Memories; see 1865 events below.)

1860 Not found in U.S. census index for Utah. *1860 Harrison Co., Iowa*

10 Oct 1864 Zion's Camp 30-year festival at Salt Lake City; Libbeus is not listed among those present, though he is listed among the members of Zion's Camp published in the Deseret News (JH, 10 Oct 1864.)

1865? Emigrated to Utah and settled in Provo Valley (Wasatch County), according to Lebbeus, Jr. He told of a 19-year-old named Thomas Manning in their camp who was shot by Indians at Pine Bluff, Wyoming, and carried back to camp by Libbeus Coons and others (Told to Vendela Coons before Lebbeus, Jr., died.)

10 Oct 1865 Attended Zion's Camp reunion in Salt Lake City, without a partner, and made brief remarks (JH.)

27 Oct 1865 Bought land in Heber City, Wasatch, Utah - 25 acres farm land and a city lot (144/160 acre). (Wasatch County Deeds, Book A, pp. 188-190, 201.)

24 Feb 1866 Bought another city lot on same block (Ibid., p. 201.)

27 Mar 1866 Was defense witness in probate court trial (Wasatch Co. Probate Records and Minutes, Book 1, p. 35.)

1 May 1866 Son Sidney joined infantry in Sevier Co., Utah, for 6 months under Capt. Heber Higgins, commander (Shirley Coons' notes.)

1 Aug 1866 Lebbeus, Jr., joined Wasatch Co. militia and served in William Wall's cavalry company for 3 months (Pension application; Under Wasatch Skies, A History of Wasatch County, 1858-1900, Appendix I.)

10 Oct 1866 Attended Zion's Camp reunion in Salt Lake City (JH, Deseret News.)

1865-1868 Black Hawk War in Utah; settlers left Sevier Co. in 1867 (CHC 5:149-153). John W. Coons says they settled there in 1867 (Sevier Stake Memories); his history in the county sheriff's office - he was an early sheriff - says they came in 1872, when he was 19. Perhaps they were among the settlers who fled, and then lived in Salem until 1872.

13 Jan 1867 Blessed an infant at Heber Ward, Wasatch Co. (Heber Ward records.)

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- 13 Jul 1867 Married Esther Minchell (or Minshall), step-daughter of John Harvey, in the Endowment House (TIB; see also Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah, p. 923, under John Harvey.)
- 10 Jul 1867 Daughter Patience married John Thomas Owen (Salt Lake Temple Records.)
- 27 Nov 1867 Deseret News (weekly) 16:336 reported Mary Ann's death at Heber City.
- 1868 Eliza Ann born at Salem, Utah, Utah, and blessed on 19 Apr by her father Libbeus. He also blessed another child, apparently a son of Monroe Curtis, on the same day (Salem Ward Records.)
- 10 Oct 1868 Attended Zion's Camp reunion in Salt Lake City, 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. He proudly exhibited his infant daughter, according to Joseph F. Smith's account. (JH, 10 Oct 1868, p. 1.)
- 22 Feb 1869 Son Sidney married Betsey Ann Gardner (TIB.)
- 9 Oct 1869 Attended Zion's Camp reunion in Salt Lake City (JH, 9 Oct 1869, p. 5, quoting Deseret Evening News of 11 Oct.; 10 Oct was on Sunday.)
- 31 Oct 1869 Confirmed Andrew William (or Killian?) at Salem (Salem Ward records.)
- 22 Nov 1869 Sidney and Betsey Ann sealed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City (TIB.)
- 9 Jan 1870 Was rebaptized at Salem; John Owen was rebaptized the same day (Salem Ward records.)
- 1870 Was enumerated in U.S. census at Pondtown (now Salem), Utah Co.; listed profession as doctor; real wealth, \$150; property wealth, \$150.
- 1870? Daughter Louisa M. born in Utah Territory (1880 U.S. census, Timpanogos City, Wasatch Co., Utah.)
- 25 May 1870 Sarah King Hillman (Coons) died at Salem (obituary, Deseret News (weekly) 19:260, 6 July 1870.)
- 5 Jul 1870 Libbeus, Jr., married Delia Elizabeth Curtis (TIB.)
- 23 Feb 1871 Sold land in Heber City (Wasatch Co. Deeds, Book B, pp. 17-18.)
- May? 1871 Attended to Silas Hillman's pregnant wife, who had been in bed for about 3 months (autobiography of Silas Hillman, pp. 53-54.)
- 7 Jul 1872 Died at Richfield, Sevier, Utah; survived by wife and 2 young children (Deseret Evening News 21:377, 27 Jul 1872; LDS Biographical Encyclopedia 4:689; Richfield cemetery records.)
- 22 Jan? 1873 Son Thaddeus Philip born at Richfield (Patriarchal Blessing Index says 22 Jun 1873; 1900 U.S. census of Center, Wasatch, Utah, gives age as 27 and birthdate as Feb 1872 or 1873. Considering Libbeus' death date and the ease of mistyping Jun for Jan, 22 Jan seems to be the best date presently available.)

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Additional Items

According to Kirtland Elders' Quorum Record, 1836-1841, ed. Lyndon Cook and Milton V. Backman, Libbeus migrated to Missouri and later helped to build Nauvoo. His obituary (Deseret Evening News 21:377, 27 July 1872) supports the former item, but I have no further information. He apparently was not a member of the Kirtland Camp which went to Missouri in 1837.